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NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Observations by our Members with the U. S. Biological Survey Party
near the International Boundary, Summer of 1920.

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To the Members of the Pacific Northwest Bird and Mammal Club:

Greetings from Whatcom Pass, 36 miles east of Glacier, Whatcom County, Washington. The combined State College of Washington - Bellingham State Normal - Biological Survey International Boundary Expedition is now encamped at 5200 feet altitude in one of the most scenic regions in northern Washington.

The party is composed of the following members of the Club: William T. Shaw, State College of Washington, Pullman; J. M. Edson, State Normal School, Bellingham; George G. Cantwell, U.S. Biological Survey, Puyallup; and Walter P. Taylor, U.S. Biological Survey, La Jolla, California. H. I. Ballard of Winthrop is acting as packer and guide.

In order to make out distance before the provisions give out, we are having to hurry through this country much faster than we should like. Furthermore, this is evidently an off year for mammals and apparently birds, too, at least in the northern Cascade Mountains. In spite of this, however, interesting points come up daily. One of these is the taking of the Mantled Ground Squirrel (Callospermophilus lateralis saturatus) in Hannegan Pass, far west of the main Cascade summit.

Evidences of our progress eastward appear at practically every camp. Here ~~is~~ Whatcom Pass, for example, we have encountered our first Clarke's Nutcrackers (Nucifraga columbiana) and White-bark Pines (Pinus albicaulis).

We have had about the usual run of the vicissitudes of camp life - some bad weather, trail and packing difficulties, burned mush, unshaved faces. This morning, on looking into each other's hairy visages, we welcomed someone's suggestion that we immediately organize a Whatcom Pass chapter of the Russian Bolsheviks. We proceeded to elect George Cantwell president. His first official act was the promulgation of an edict that cooks should receive higher wages than workers in any other profession. Perhaps the fact that his turn to cook was coming had something to do with this.

We consider ourselves fortunate to have the opportunity to traverse this most interesting section and to contrast the fauna and flora east and west of the great divide. Not a little is added to the interest of the region when it is remembered that this was the historic field in which Dr. C. B. R. Kennerly, one of Spencer Fullerton Baird's most trusted workers, and John Keast Lord, naturalists, respectively, for the United States and Great Britain, carried forward their investigations in connection with the International Boundary Survey of the late fifties.

With best wishes

Sincerely yours,

Walter P. Taylor.

Whatcom Pass, Whatcom Co., Wn.

Altitude 5200 feet.

Aug. 1, 1920.